

## Automotive Fluids Cannot Drain Into Ground

Does your shop have floor drains or sinks in the vehicle service areas? Do they drain into something other than a municipal sewer or a holding tank that is disposed off-site? If you have this situation, you need to keep reading.


The Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Well Rule, a federal rule, prohibits fluids from automotive repair or maintenance activities from going into the ground in dry wells or septic systems, called disposal wells. Since April 5, 2000, there can be no new construction of such disposal wells. New wells are those for which construction started on or after April 5, 2000. Existing disposal wells must be inventoried. In ground water protection areas and other sensitive ground water areas, they must be closed or permitted.

*Ground water protection areas* are those areas that currently provide short term recharge of ground water to: 1) public drinking water wells that serve communities; and 2) other establishments that serve the same people every day (such as schools).

*Other sensitive ground water areas* are those areas outside of ground water protection areas that a state has decided need additional protection from motor vehicle waste disposal wells.


In ground water protection areas, the motor vehicle waste disposal well must be closed by one year after the assessment is completed. In other sensitive ground water areas, they must be closed by January 1, 2007. In some situations the timeline for closure could be sooner. So, if you have a motor vehicle disposal well that needs to be closed, it is a good idea to close it as soon as possible.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is working to provide information about locations in Minnesota that have been assessed as ground water protection areas and other sensitive ground water areas. By the end of June you should be able to go to their web site at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa> and click on *Find an Assessment* for this information.



Small Entity Compliance Guide

How The New Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Well Rule Affects Your Business



United States  
Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Water  
Washington, D.C. 20460

EPA 816-R-00-018  
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You need to submit an inventory form to EPA Region 5 for any existing wells before it is closed. Inventory forms are included in the EPA booklet, *How the New Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Well Rule Affects Your Business*. See Attachment C; it says Class V Well Pre-Closure Notification Form at the top of the page.

Inventory forms should be sent to:

Lisa Perenchio  
WU 16J  
US EPA Region 5  
77 W Jackson Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

If you need help determining if and when you need to close a well, call James Corcoran at (651) 735-2476 or William Sanville at (218) 728-1299. James and William can also help you with another requirement, registering any existing well.

Call the Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP) to obtain a copy of this EPA booklet, *How the New Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Well Rule Affects Your Business*, or find it on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/c5imp.html>.

SBAP offers free, non-regulatory, and confidential environmental assistance to businesses that are independently owned and operated and have fewer than 100 employees. Business specific information is not shared with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regulatory programs unless there is imminent danger to human health or the environment. Call SBAP at (651) 282-6143 or (800) 657-3938.